

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

*Mass.: Dept. of civil service and registration;
Division of registration*

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

STATE EXAMINERS OF ELECTRICIANS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1929



Publication of this Document approved by the Commission on Administration and Finance

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE EXAMINERS OF ELECTRICIANS.

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

In accordance with section 2, chapter 141, and section 32, chapter 30, of the General Laws, the State Examiners of Electricians submit herewith their annual report for the year ending November 30, 1929.

From the first day of December, 1928 to the thirtieth day of November, 1929, applicants were examined, and were passed or rejected, as is shown in the following table:

Result of Examinations held from December 1, 1928 to November 30, 1929

Examinations	Examined	Passed	Failed
1928			
Boston, December 3	71	24	47
New Bedford, December 6 }	26	8	18
New Bedford, December 7 }			
1929			
Boston, January 7 }	85	27	58
Boston, January 11 }	67	17	50
Boston, February 4 }	13	0	13
Lowell, February 7 }	97	24	73
Boston, March 4 }	29	8	21
Springfield, March 6 }	124	33	91
Boston, April 1 }	30	7	23
Fall River, April 4 }	155	45	110
Fall River, April 5 }	59	16	43
Boston, May 13 }	168	42	126
Worcester, May 16 }	156	52	104
Boston, June 24 }	28	7	21
Boston, June 25 }	45	6	39
Boston, September 23 }	18	1	17
Lowell, September 26 }	76	25	51
Springfield, October 4 }	32	7	25
Pittsfield, October 5 }			
Boston, November 4 }			
Worcester, November 7 }			
Total for fiscal year	1279	349	930

EXAMINATIONS, 1930

Examinations will be held at following points and on following dates:

Boston	Monday, January	6	Boston	Monday, June	23
Lowell	Thursday, January	9	Boston	Tuesday, June	24
Boston	Monday, February	3	Boston	Monday, September	22
Worcester	Thursday, February	6	Worcester	Thursday, September	25
Boston	Monday, March	3	Boston	Monday, October	6
Fall River	Wednesday, March	5	Lowell	Thursday, October	9
Fall River	Thursday, March	6	Springfield	Friday, November	7
Boston	Monday, April	7	Pittsfield	Saturday, November	8
Springfield	Thursday, April	10	Boston	Monday, December	8
Boston	Monday, May	12	New Bedford	Wednesday, Dec.	10
Worcester	Thursday, May	15	New Bedford	Thursday, Dec.	11

CERTIFICATES

Certificates issued during fiscal years	1926	1927	1928	1929
Masters (Class A)	182	117	85	97
Journeyman (Class B)	474	272	153	277
Certificates renewed during fiscal years	1926	1927	1928	1929
Masters (Class A)	954	1,001	1,056	1,073
Journeyman (Class B)	9,577	5,581	9,545	9,488
Certified Statements of Registration issued during fiscal years	1926	1927	1928	1929
Journeyman (Class B)	77	54	53	39
Duplicate Certificates (Class A)	1	1	1	

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RECEIPTS

The following table shows the receipts of the State Examiners of Electricians for the fiscal years 1926, 1927, 1928 and for the fiscal year commencing December 1, 1928, and ending November 30, 1929:

Masters	1926	1927	1928	1929
Application fees	\$ 4,795.00	\$ 3,420.00	\$ 2,895.00	\$ 3,170.00
Renewal fees	14,295.00	15,015.00	15,810.00	16,110.00
Duplicate certificates	5.00	5.00	5.00	
Total fees from Masters	\$19,095.00	\$18,440.00	\$18,710.00	\$19,280.00
Journeyman				
Application fees	3,675.00	3,003.00	2,611.00	2,658.00
Renewal fees	9,578.00	9,581.00	9,546.00	9,488.00
Certified statements	77.00	54.00	41.00	39.00
Total fees from Journeymen	\$13,330.00	\$12,638.00	\$12,198.00	\$12,185.00
Miscellaneous fees	\$25.00	\$62.00	\$80.00	\$53.00
Fees subject to refund	406.00	438.00	446.00	580.00
Total paid to Treasurer of Commonwealth	\$32,856.00	\$31,578.00	\$31,434.00	\$32,098.00

EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$7,273.04
Additional clerical, stenographic and examination assistance	362.90
Printing	734.47
Office Supplies, etc.	424.43
Postage	583.70
Expenses in connection with examinations	326.97
Travel	1,599.97
Total	\$11,305.48

ENFORCEMENT

During the past year the Examiners of Electricians have given a great deal of attention to the enforcement of chapter 141 of the General Laws, which provides for the licensing and supervision of electricians. Due to lack of enforcement in the past it has been apparent that a general disregard of the law has existed, which has resulted in faulty electrical work and potential fire hazard.

In January, 1929, the Examiners met and decided to do all in their power adequately to carry out the provisions of the law. Legislation was introduced to correct certain inadequate features of the law, which legislation, however, failed of enactment.

In spite, however, of existing legal handicaps, the Examiners feel that they have made a great deal of progress. They have made the examinations more thorough and adequate; and they have brought about better conditions, through revocation of the licenses of persons who have proved themselves unfit or who have deliberately violated the law or the rules of the Examiners. This has been accomplished through the co-operation of the local wire inspectors and the agents of the examiners.

HEARINGS

During the past fiscal year the Examiners have granted hearings to five persons, as a result of which two licenses were revoked, two were suspended, and in one case the Board suspended action, giving the licensee a chance to finish his work satisfactorily.

In addition to these, thirty-two cases were prosecuted in the courts of the commonwealth, in which thirty-one were found guilty and fined \$675 in the aggregate. Previous to the year 1928 practically no action had ever been taken in the courts.

During the fiscal year 1929 approximately 700 cases were investigated.

The reaction to this policy has been most favorable, and without question has resulted in a higher and safer standard of electrical work.

The action of the Examiners in the preceding cases was based on the following charges:

Installing electrical work without being properly licensed.
Installing defective electrical work.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The law providing for the licensing of electricians has now been in existence, without any substantial change, since 1915. Investigation and analysis of complaints received by the Examiners over a period of several years make it apparent that numerous changes are necessary in order to remedy certain defects and omissions in the law which have placed a severe handicap on the proper enforcement thereof.

The Examiners believe that a clearer definition should be made of the work which may be done by certain classes of licensees. The present law, through a technicality, permits unlicensed and unqualified persons to do work on their own premises or on the premises of another, provided it is not done for hire, and this should be changed.

At present the Examiners have no power to summons or place witnesses under oath. This places the Examiners under a great handicap, since it is difficult under such conditions to get the testimony of unprejudiced witnesses.

The Examiners recommend, therefor, a general revision of chapter 141 of the General Laws, as contained in House Bills Nos. 21, 22 and 23 of 1930, in order to bring it into conformity with present-day practice, and in order that the results may be secured which were intended by the original legislation.

The Examiners recommend, also, an amendment to chapter 13, section 32, General Laws, said amendment providing for a representative of the commissioners and the fire marshall in case of absence from Board meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

STATE EXAMINERS OF ELECTRICIANS.

ELLIOT H. GOODWIN, *Chairman.*

Commissioner of Civil Service.

PAYSON SMITH,

Commissioner of Education.

JOHN W. RETH,

State Fire Marshall.

January 15, 1930.

ELLIS L. DENNIS,

Executive Secretary,

Room 180, State House, Boston, Mass.